Government Fuel Depot.

4. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) why, when plenty of wind-fallen and uprooted trees as well as outer-slabs and top-ends inside the Forest Reserves are available in the State, no fuel depot is opened by the Government as in the case of timber depots ; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that the opening of a fuel depot in every town under the Forest Department would fetch a huge revenue to the Government ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) As extraction of wind-fallen trees and top-ends as fuel will not pay the cost of working, no fuel depot can be opened with success.

(*b*) Not at all. Past experience will show that, on the other hand, it will be a losing business, so long as cheap private fuel is available.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) ; May I know from the Government whether the Forest Department has attempted to tap this source of forest revenue by calling for tenders for the purpose of collecting wind-fallen and uprooted trees ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : The Department tried the experiment and found that it has failed and so it does not call. for tenders.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government when the Departmental Head tried that experiment ?

MR. T.C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : From the year 1090 to 1107.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government the actual loss that the department has sustained by that experiment ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice. The experiment was found to be not profitable.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Department has given the work to private contractors ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : It was not given.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know why tender was not offered to private contractors ?

PRESIDENT : Because the experiment was conducted and found to be a failure.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Forest Department or the Departmental Head has attempted to give it to private contractors to collect the uprooted and windfallen trees ?

PRESIDENT : Which wise contactor will come forward in the light of the information supplied by the Department that it is not a paying concern ?

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